TOUGH LOVE BABY

SHIUKO KANO

ALTHOUGH THE VIEW FROM MY NEW PLACE IS DIFFERENT THAN THE ONE FROM MY OLD APARTMENT...
It's been three years...
MY NAME IS YOSHINO KAKEI. I'VE COME BACK TO MY HOMETOWN AFTER THREE YEARS.
SHHHHCK
...THE SMELL IN THE AIR HASN'T CHANGED.
Ah
is that dried mackerel?
SNIFF SNIFF
Hmm ..
Do you smell it, too, Sachi?
Huh?
にゃー
MEOW
Look, what a beautiful sunset...

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SWITCH?! .....

OK, OK.
DING DONG
DING DONG
Hey, Sachi, aren't you home?
Answer the door.
Sachi?
Sachi!
...
FSSHH
Yes?
DING DONG
THE AMBER BY Yuu
...MAKES ME FEEL LONELY AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS OF BEING AWAY
Come here, Sachi.
TOUGH LOVE BABY
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... HUGE...
Umm...
I stopped by to say hello...
It isn't much, but... I thought I'd bring you a little something...
My name is Kakei. I just moved in next door.
Hmm...?
No one's home?
SILENCE
Who the hell...?
DING DONG
DING DONG
DIN
Shut up!
Ka-d-A-

How long have you been living here?
PEEK
ちら
You look well.
TRICKLE
コポ
TRICKLE
I got married. You remember that old apartment? It wasn't big enough for three people, you know?
I see.
You haven't changed a bit. Your face says it all.
NGH...
Huh?
Heh
フフ
Are you relieved that I'm married now?
Have we met before?
Who is it? A bill collector?
TAK TAK
What is it?
I'm sorry for making you wait.
Yoshi-no...
NO WAY!

!!
It's just
CLICK
Sachi...
Aren't you mad at me?
You know what? I'm happy now..
Keiko
I'm so happy that I'd feel bad if the past still bothers you.

I ENDED THINGS WITH KEIKO AND LEFT TOWN.
THREE YEARS AGO...
He still doesn't know
. why we broke up
That good, Sachi?
SEEMS SO LONG AGO, YET IT FEELS LIKE YESTERDAY...
MEOW
Yoshi!
I MET KEIKO IN THE SUMMER WHEN I WAS 20, THEN LIVED WITH HER FOR TWO YEARS.
IT'S HARD TO REMEMBER... THOSE TIMES WITH HER BROTHER, SACHI.
hut up!
You haven't finished dinner
.
Where are you going?
Wait, Sachi!
Sachi!
Sachi... Wait...
BA-TUNK
He's changed... these past few years.
Aren't you gonna ask about him...?

Where have you been?! It's been awhile!
Oh, I've been here and there.
Nice... Just walking the Earth, huh?
What have you been doing for so long?
You got a girl?
So, do you live around here?
What if you see Keiko again?
Heh, yeah right.
Oh.
Yeah.
ACTUALLY, SHE LIVES RIGHT NEXT TO ME..
Have we met before?
BUT NOW...
SUCH A SWEET BOY.
WHEN WE MET, HE WAS ONLY 13.
HE TREATED ME LIKE HIS REAL BROTHER.
...I'M SORRY SACHI.
Hey. Yoshino!
He's changed... these past few years.
IS IT MY FAULT?

He's staring at us.
Who's that jackass? Do you know him?
MACHINES
What do you wanna do? Want us to kick his ass?
Leave him alone.
SACHI...
TSK
Remember her brother? The one you kinda looked out for? He got in with those street gangs.
Have you heard? Keiko got married last year.
Seems like she's been having a rough time, though.
SACHI...?!
See those kids over there? They hang out around here a lot.
Poor Keiko...
What...?
Yoshino?
Sachi...!

I guess I really wasn't your brother to begin with...
So we're strangers now...?
Yo...
...!
Sachi ...?
You said the same thing three years ago...
Is it my fault that...
...you hang out with those punks?
SMAKK
Yeah, that's right...
SIGH
KCHK
You don't call me bro anymore, huh?

WHAM
Why'd you have to show up now?
HEH HEH
Take it easy.
You trying to die young by inhaling too much?
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
This sucks!
CABIN
CABIN

IT WAS HARD FOR ME, TOO
CABIN
THIS IS THE SAME BRAND...
THE ONE WE USED TO SMOKE...
EVEN NOW, AFTER SEEING YOU AGAIN.
...HAVE BEEN PAINFUL FOR A LONG TIME.
MEMORIES OF YOU...
It's always been about you, Sachi...

No one likes it the first time anyway.
Here.
FOOO
Aren't I your wonderful big bro?
What?
GRIN
Huh?
Blechhh. Are you trying to make me sick?
I'm so sleepy...
Are you stupid? It should be me saying blechhh!
Wait.
Stop it.

THE REASON WHY I BROKE UP WITH HIS SISTER
Sis! You gotta stop him!
No! You can't!
Why are you...?
男
MEN
女
WOMEN
I DIDN'T.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT ANYONE
I'm sorry, Sachi...
I met another girl...
No, you can't just leave us like this..
No...
Yoshi!
I COULDN'T TELL HIM THE TRUTH.
AND...
I WISH I COULD TELL HIM HOW I REALLY FEEL.
Hey, Kake. You can go home for the day.
Oh. OK.
?

Stop it!
Sachi!
Stop it now!
GASP
Yoshino!
Yoshino!
BECAUSE I..
That kid! You remember Keiko's brother?
WHEEE
There's a fight!
SACHI?!
They're fighting over a machine!
You better stop them, who knows what'll happen!

I deserve that.
You dumped us.
You can't just show up and tell me what to do.
You didn't even care how we felt.
I don't know what you want now...
But... it was so hard... just so hard to be around you.
It's true, I was selfish...
I lied about liking another girl.
What are you saying?
So I ran away, ran away from you and your sister.
That was crazy.
Is it my fault.
...that you behave like this?
If it is... what're you gonna do about it?
Sachi!
Leave me alone if I'm no one to you!

TINKLE
MEOW
Come here, Sachi.
...?!
No.. it's not true...
Far from it. I had feelings for you... Feelings that a brother shouldn't have.
CABIN
You think it was easy? That you're no one?
Sachi... the person I liked was you.
I got scared and ran.
Your sister knew. I was afraid you'd find out someday.

...WASN'T LONG ENOUGH TO ERASE WHAT I'VE DONE.
THREE YEARS...
OH...
I look like a total idiot...
I just. .
Sa-
I was jealous of my sister.
And jealous of the woman who took you away from me.

TOUGH LOVE BABY

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CHAPTER 1 ♡ END

IT WAS ALL HAZY.
WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR...
SMOG
Isn't this my place?
IT WAS CIGARETTE SMOKE.
It'd take a lot of cigarettes for this much smoke
PHEW
Hey, Sachi.
MEOW
NO. IT WASN'T HAZE.
Come on. he could at least turn on the fan.
KUSTLE
I MAY COMPLAIN...
Oh, well.
I'm home.
CHUCKLE
BUT COMING HOME TO SOMEONE IS NICE.
IT'S NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE WAITING FOR YOU.
Sachi?
VOOSH
What's that? A giant cockroach?
CHUCKLE
Here, I brought you back your favorite fried chicken dinner.
You been smoking to fill your stomach?
SHUK
SHUK
Heh...
Oh

Yo.
ちっす。
See ya later.
Take it easy, man.
Oh, by the way you should fix your air conditioning
See lat br
Later!
TEP
Who are you?
I HAVE THIS...
... BAD FEELING.
Are you serious?
Mah-jongg!
PANIC
Let's see...
THOK
And he's the dealer
Six kong, two quints, and a pair.
GAAK

Are you listening?
Yeah.
Don't ask me for food. Remember, I'm poor.
You know what? If you're hungry, you should go home.
You live next door anyway
IT'S SUCH A WEIRD RELATIONSHIP.
WE'RE NOT BROTHERS OR LOVERS
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT WE'D MEET AGAIN?
Yoshi?
Aren't you gonna eat?
ON THAT CONCLUSION, I LEFT.
"HE'S MY GIRLFRIEND'S BROTHER."
AFTER THREE YEARS...
... I'M BACK TO THE SAME FEELINGS THAT I RAN AWAY FROM.
Fuckin' loser.
?!
SHUK
SHUK
Did you get any beer? Or snacks?
WHAT?!
GASP
BA-TUNK
Huh?
SWSH
Return the key.
I didn't give it to you so you could party here.
Don't be mad..

I KNOW IT'S NOT GOING BE THE SAME ANYMORE.
WHEN I FEEL...
CHUCKLE
Yeah, I'll have fried chicken.
...A LITTLE HESITANT..
What?!
Why didn't you tell me earlier
Hachi-suka.
Tajima.
Here
Hashi-moto.
Here
Hamada.
Here
Tsugawa
Here
Hachisuka's not here...
CHATTER
CHATTER
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
Tamotsu Hachisuka?
TSK
He thinks he can come late to class as usual.
Fukuda.
Here.
Ni...
Nishi-yama.
Here.
Naka-jima.
Here.
TMP TMP
I can see your belly button!
OH!
What ..?
Hold on! You haven't explained why you're late.
Don't throw things at me!
NOK
Mmm ...
What's up, Sachi?

GRIN
You shouldn't be late for class.
TSK
What?! What do you want?
Nothin'.
Whaat?!
You're retarded.
GRR!!
YEEP
Tamotsu! What kind of excuses are these?!
What?!
Hey
CHUCKLE
PHOO
Permission
Toothache
Low blood pressure
Nosebleed
High blood pressure
Diarrhea
EEP
HA HA HA
You're too cool, Tamotsu.
Good job, bro
CLOP,
CLOP

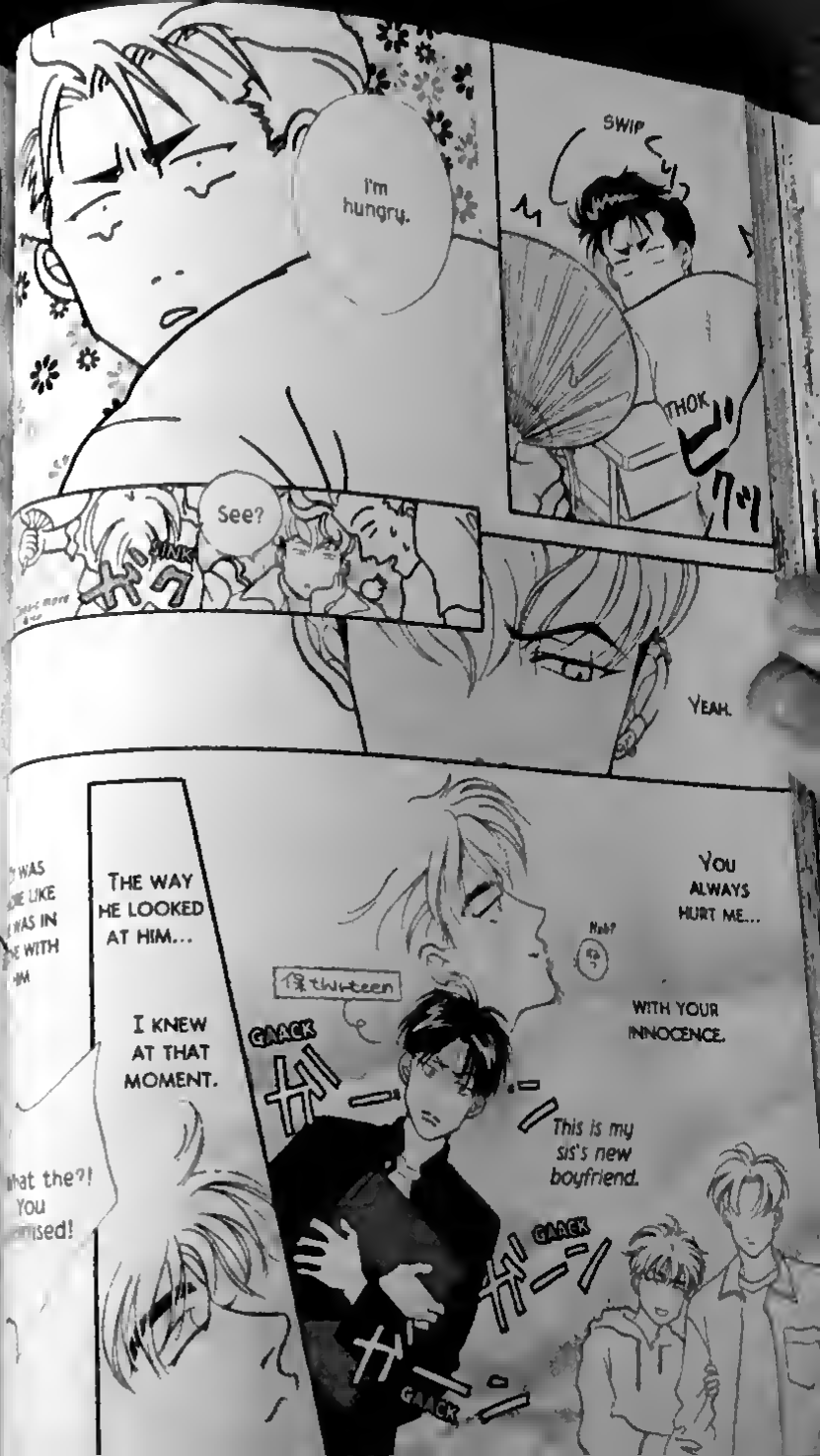
You can't even touch that straight boy.
Who said he's straight?
What?
He's not?
No way!
What's wrong with you? You can get any guy you want.
Shut up.
SWSH
Are you all right?
Sachi ...?
You gotta be joking.
Then why? This isn't like you.
You're supposed to be the man.
Damn it!
I see.
So, you're serious about that guy.
There are feelings involved.

TA-DAA
GAACK
PEEK
Aren't you going to play?
You're Sachi's friend, right?
Friendly mode
What's going on between you and Sachi?
Umm
Stop talking or I'm gonna make you come again.
MMUSH
I would love that babe
Damn. This sucks.

I don't know what you told Sachi...
.. but don't pretend like you're his brother and mess around with him.
Then it's even worse.
It was a coincidence.
I heard you're his sister's ex-boyfriend, right?
Not family, or anything?
Anyway, you're a stranger.
What...
What do you mean?
Don't say his name like you know him.
Who are you to Sachi anyway?
I won't forgive you...
What do you mean?
What do you want from him?
?!
What are you trying to say?
You can't say it was a coincidence that you moved in next door to him.

Don't you think Sachi's changed recently?
I mean, he's not cool anymore.
He wasn't cool before.
He's weak.
TWITCH
He may be weak...
...but he's such an innocent...
...and earnest kid.
What I mean is he's just a happy, stupid kid.
TWITCH
Oops!
ZZZ...
...unless you leave town again

What?
'Cause, fishing sucks!
HE BETRAYED ME
HE MUST HAVE BEEN HAPPY WHEN HE SAID NO TO ME!
SMILE
Your bro sucks!
Sorry, but I'm going fishing with my bro, Yoshi.
What did you just say?
Huh?
It's the truth.
I mean he looks and dresses like a dork.
Your sis is crazy to date that jerk.
Don't you ever badmouth Yoshi!
DRIP


I'm hungry.
SWIP
THOK
See?
Yeah.
THE WAY HE LOOKED AT HIM...
I KNEW AT THAT MOMENT.
What the?! You ...ised!
Huh?
You always hurt me...
with your innocence.
thirteen
GAACK
This is my sis's new boyfriend.
GAACK
GAACK

WE DIDN'T SPEAK FOR TWO YEARS
FOR TWO YEARS.
Who the hell is that?
I'll catch you guys later.
YEEP!
Hey, Tamotsu, aren't you one of Sachi's friends?
Could you drop off this paper at his house and check on him?
HE'S STAYED HOME FROM SCHOOL TOO LONG TO HAVE JUST A COLD...
Damn it! What am I doing here?
BUT THAT EXPECTATION ...
DING DONG
WAS VERY DIFFERENT FROM REALITY.
NGH
Stubborn!
I'm not gonna apologize though...
ACTUALLY, IT WAS SUCH A TEMPTING OPPORTUNITY...
I'D BEEN WAITING FOR THIS CHANCE TO GET BACK TOGETHER WITH HIM.

WE DIDN'T SPEAK FOR TWO YEARS.
FOR TWO YEARS...
I'll catch you guys later.
Who the hell is that?
Hey, Tamotsu, aren't you one of Sachi's friends?
Could you drop-off this paper at his house and check on him?
HE'S STAYED HOME FROM SCHOOL TOO LONG TO HAVE JUST A COLD...
GLOOOM
SIGH
TREMBLE
Damn it! What am I doing here?
...
ACTUALLY, IT WAS SUCH A TEMPTING OPPORTUNITY...
I'D BEEN WAITING FOR THIS CHANCE TO GET BACK TOGETHER WITH HIM.
Stubborn!
I'm not gonna apologize though...
BUT THAT EXPECTATION ...
DING DONG
WAS VERY DIFFERENT FROM REALITY.
NGH
YEEP

He left us!
THWAK
...!!
CHAK
Tomotsu...
Sachi?
He's gone...
What?
Yoshino's gone!
He's not coming back. He said he found another girl and he likes her more than my sister... more than me!
He...
He...

Uaahh
Sousin
I didn't come here to talk.
I doubt you even remember me.
SMACK
But ...
I never forgot *your* face.
You took him away from me and left him in the end.
I won't forget that.
I didn't abandon him.

That's what I thought.
PHEW
You look so innocent.
I told you before, I'm not gonna forgive you. I don't have much patience.
I heard you grew up with Sachi.
But it seems like there's more to it than that.
...
Although ...
Well, if you understood how I felt, it would be easier.

...I'm sorry.
It wasn't just Keiko and Sachi...
...I hurt you too.
I'm sorry.
HUFF
I'm so sorry.
You think if you keep apologizing, I'm gonna go away?
I liked Sachi.
You don't know.. anything..
What do *you* know about him?
I never dumped him
I'm the one who's been watching him.
You show up suddenly ...
THWOK
...and what the hell do you think you know?!

Did you do it for Sachi?
Well, I'll let you go here.
Just one like others are fake
Me, too.
That more than blows.
KLANG
So you like Sachi, too...?
That blows.
But... it seems that I ended up hurting everyone.
...
I was afraid I'd ruin things if I stayed.
...liked him so much.
I...
So I left

北澤 幸

SACHI KITAZAWA

18 years old. Senior in high school.
Height: 194 cm. Weight: 84 kg.
Taurus. Blood Type A / Earnest kid, but became a delinquent due to personal reasons.
Flaws: "He doesn't know when to give up." (lol)
Family members: Older sister and her husband.
Favorite food: Fried chicken.
Prefers wearing boxers.
Favorite cigarette brand is Cabin Mild.

TOUGH LOVE BABY

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覚 由乃

YOSHINO KAKEI

25 years old. Pachinko parlor worker.
Height: 176 cm. Weight: 58 kg.
Pisces. Blood Type A / Sometimes cowardly, likes running away from difficult situations. (Oops.) Tends to take things too seriously, a trait often seen in Blood Type A personalities. (Glad I'm Type O!) Family members: Unknown. Appears that his family life wasn't good. Now lives with a cat named "Sachi."
Hobbies: Household related activities.

TWICE
Sora?
FLIP
Give me a break
Aren't you too old to have the mumps? Did you know if you have a high fever, your boys'll shrivel up?
Spaz
Shrivel up? Like raisins?
PHEW. THAT WAS CLOSE.
BAM
Hey, how are you feeling?
Oh, yeah. I'm better now.
What?
JOLT
But, anyway... what were you doin' in front of the seniors' lockers?
3-B
Night after night...
GLANCE
GLANCE
SNEAK
OK.
I HAVEN'T CHECKED IN A WHILE, BUT IT LOOKS JUST LIKE BEFORE.
DAMN IT!
CREAK

Tamotsu!
TMP
TMP
Wait!
Wait a second!
HUFF

Next, Sachi, can you read?
Autumn in exile can only be lonely.
OK.
The winds of autumn sigh, travelling from the sea
"Dear Tamotsu, I want to have a special relationship with you." ♡
Go ahead.
Everyone but Genji sleeps...
The voice of the waves carries all the way to his bedchamber, as if just out of sight. Unaware he weeps, his pillow floating in his tears.
Awake, he listens to the sound of the wind...

Um.
I think you'd better make sure you lock your locker.
Huh?
...
I mean... you never know who'll mess with it.
Oh, I see...
Yeah, that's true.
CHUCKLE
I mean... you don't use it anyway, ...
Outdoor Shoes

Huh
I was supposed to be big enough for it by now
Oh. It's you. That uniform's a bit too large, isn't it?
Hehe
HUFF HUFF
Hey, Tamotsu!
We're leaving now
Well. Bye. then.
Wait.
Hold on.
GRAB

Can... Can I be your brother?
Nah.
Something good must've happened between you and that dude. What was his name, Sachi?
Hold on.
You mean you didn't realize it?
Was I smiling?
I don't want someone like you sneaking into my stuff.
!
You know?
GAACK
You're creeping me out.
Huh?
Your face.
You've been smiling the whole time.
The kanji says "Uchuu?"
It's Sora. You read it Sora.

What are you smiling about?
You again
Sachi's not with you today?
Haha
Why are you staring at me?
Well, someday it'll fit you.
Haha
You could tell? It's second-hand.
Your uniform... isn't it outdated?
My mom found it somewhere.
I JUST THOUGHT..
HE REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE.
By yourself today?

See, look.
Did you know? Big hands and feet mean someone has a big thing, too.
I doubt you have a big one, though.
GRRRIP
Oh..

Do you think...
Within two years he was taller than me.
Just like Sachi... He was shorter than me our freshman year.
KLIK

'Cause your hands and feet are so big.
BLINK
Yeah, I think so.
Yeah?
ホント？
For real?
Haha
Do you think I can be like him, too?

See, look.
Did you know? Big hands and feet mean someone has a big thing, too.
I doubt you have a big one though.
GRRRIP
Oh...

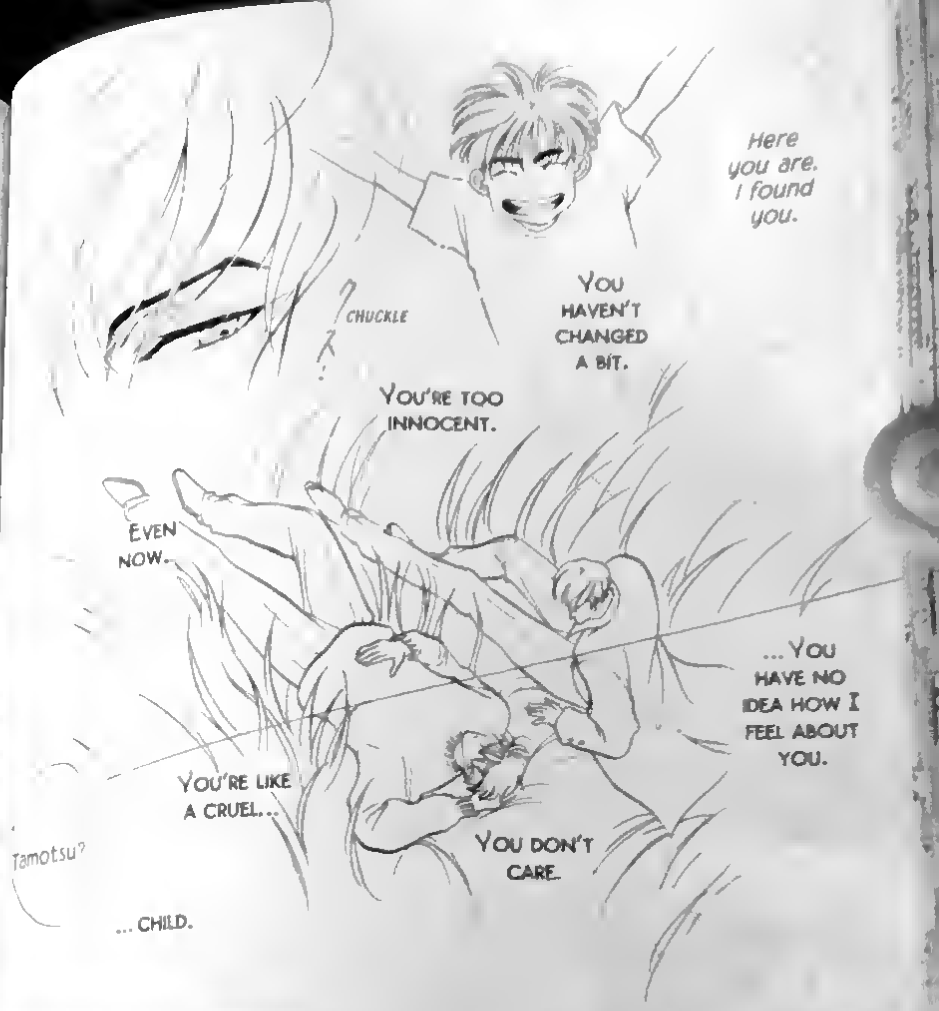
Do you think
Within two years he was taller than me
He was shorter than me our freshman year.
Just like Sachi..
KLIK
'Cause your hands and feet are so big.
BLINK
Yeah?
ホント?
For real?
Yeah, I think so.
Heh
Do you think I can be like him, too?

PACHINKO
Huh?
It's noisy. What did you just say?
My luck stinks today. Maybe I should change machines.
FOR A MOMENT ...
I THOUGHT IT WAS SACHI WHO HIT ME.
I'm so sorry!
Ahh!
Huh?!
SLAP
...
Have you slept with him yet?
What?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOUR LUCK STINKS...?
FLUSTER
Quit being so twitchy
FLUSTER
YOU DON'T LIKE PACHINKO ANYWAY.
Are you all right?
I mean...
Sorry!
I didn't mean it!

Here For you.
TUP TUP
FUM
It's your fault, 'cuz you asked me a stupid question.
We used to play here, remember?
Yeah.
...I guess.
I smell autumn.

I said, have you fucked him?
What..
What are you talking about?!
STMP
What do you that?
You're asking about our private life?
Yow!
Hey, how're you guys doing?
JINGLE
Spaz.
I don't know what the hell you're talking about.
L..
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
CHUCKLE
So childish

FLUM
Hey, you!
RAZOR PUNCH!
Besides, you're the one who was sleeping.
I don't wanna be told that by someone even more stupid.
Hey!
KGH
?
You..
...
It's JUST...
...ONE TOUCH.
It's NOT LIKE ME.
NO WAY... YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP


Here you are. I found you.
CHUCKLE
You HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.
You're TOO INNOCENT.
EVEN NOW.
...You HAVE NO IDEA HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU.
You're LIKE A CRUEL...
You DON'T CARE.
Tamotsu?
... CHILD.

PHHT
You look pretty stupid there.

Tamotsu
I TRIED SO HARD TO FIGHT IT BUT
WSH
I like you.
Just a kiss wouldn't satisfy me...
That's how much.
Hehehe
Since it's you, I'll talk about it.
We kissed
What?
BLUSH
I was so nervous.
I knew I liked him a lot.
Yeah...
AGAIN...
But, I don't think there's any end to this feeling.
Even though he's a guy?
YOU HURT ME.

Sachi
Enough with the stupid jokes.
Crazy husband
I'll figure it out on my own.
PUM
PUM
...IF IT'S FROM YOU.
You had me there for a second
Actually, it wasn't a bad idea.
I'LL TAKE PAIN...
DING DONG
SACHI!
SQUEEZE
I DON'T CARE IF I GET HURT.
I'LL TAKE WHATEVER YOU'LL LET ME HAVE.
I CAN'T..
I like you
I CAN'T STOP MYSELF.

Aren't you gonna run away today?
TONG
!
Ta...
HUFF
Ta...
Will I?
Hi
Come in
How did you know where I live?
H... how did you find my number?
Aren't you happy that I remember your name now, Sora?
Yes

No..
Sachi...
This is not ...
This is not what I want!
...no...
PUSH
Um.
NO
Tamo-tsu...?
Tamotsu!
Don't play dumb. Isn't this why you're here?
But... this is wrong.
Too late, it's already hard.
N... No!
No!

This isn't right
Not like this.
I wanted to be like him
But...
I won't ever have him.
I know this.
But I can't help it.
STILL...
It's over.
Over for us.
Heh. Look at you
I envied Sachi.
You...

SMACK
Mornin'!
What's that?
What...?
Even when you aren't cool, I like you.
I'LL PROBABLY
KEEP WANTING HIM...
FOR A LONG TIME
ALWAYS...?

4
TOUGH LOVE, BABY
RSST
RUB RUB
THUMP
CHAPTER 3 ♡ END

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
...MY APARTMENT?
ISN'T THIS...
BE-
PILING UP DAY BY DAY...
I SEE NEW THINGS ARE...
ZUN
SOMEHOW...

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
Uhn...
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
!!
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
...?

WHEN HE ASKS ME THAT, HE DOESN'T LOOK INNOCENT ANYMORE.
I DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE HIM.
IT'S LIKE HE'S PLAYING A GAME.
Can I sleep here tonight?
Would it bother you if I just moved in?
IF HE FINDS OUT THAT I'M LOOKING FOR A REASON TO SAY NO...
...WILL HE GET ANGRY?
Say...
Do you think I can come back again tonight?
Um...
Sorry.
ANYWAY...
CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP
You too, bro.
Really dark too
UGH
Huh?
You have dark circles under your eyes.

HOW CAN I SAY NO...
WHEN HE STARES AT ME LIKE THAT?
BUT STILL...
IF THIS KEEPS UP...
I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN SURVIVE WITHOUT SLEEP.
Excuse me. Looks like this machine got stuck.
Would it bother you...?
KAKU
No sleeping on the job.
So...
What's going on between you two?
CAFFE
Hehe
I'm going now
ARE YOU
BA-TUNK
...TRYING TO KILL ME?
YAWWWN
AWW

Clueless!
What do you mean? It's true.
Come on
You don't get it.
I didn't come here to ask you to behave.
Three years ago, you left Sachi and me...
...because you didn't want to hurt him.
I believed you and let you leave.
What do you mean by.
what's going on?
Did he say some thing?
He announced that he's moving out.
Oh...
That...
Don't worry. Nothing's gonna happen.
Nothing ...?
HEH

I wanted to know how you felt. before anything happens.
He wouldn't be able to take getting hurt so badly. again.
I don't know how you feel but my brother definitely cares for you
Ahh. I feel clean now
KEIKO...
THERE'S NO DOUBT I LOVED HIM.
I FELT BAD ABOUT KEIKO...
My brother isn't a kid any more
BECAUSE I LOVED HER SO MUCH I LOVED HIM.
But what about now?
Can you say you still have the same feelings for him?
THREE YEARS AGO...
I need to know what you want now.
If you're not gonna be serious with him...
I want you to end it.
Not just words. I want the truth.

You look tired.
You're younger I don't bounce back as fast.
THUD
THINK
YOU KNOW LIKE A BIRTH WHEN IT'S NOT.
KNOCK
WHEN I'M JUST RELAXING AT HOME WITH HIM...
IT FEELS LIKE I NEVER WENT AWAY THREE YEARS AGO.
BACK THEN, I JUST WANTED TO HUG HIM.
AND NOW...

Do you like who I am now?
Do I bother you?
I can't figure you out.
What?
Sachi...
I guess three years really is a long time
I mean, you didn't recognize me when you came back. I grew up and my voice changed.
But you haven't changed at all. I knew it was you right away

TUG
SCRU
THOK

I HEARD
NO! I HEAR
NO YOU MURDERESS!!
what you had a lover's spat last night
Stop it!
PUSH
I'm sorry

Can't
I'm the
one who
thought
thought
you'd be
here
Shut
up
Darn
it
Huh?
pushed
things.
Maybe
too far
What??
Did
you...!
CHAA
CHAA

But, you
ugh!
I can handle that
Whatever
think you're a little slow bud.
Wha?!

I see your male pride is eating at you
But, you felt something?
11
op smiling
don't think it would turn out this way
honestly

GYARGH
NO way!
Did you feel anything when we kissed?
?!
Then why're you hesitating?
BAM
Stop it!
LOL
WHAAAAT?!
What the hell are you doing?!
Damn
RUB
RUB
RUB
RUB
you

SACHI!
CHAN
カ!!
I'LL BE A MERRY CHRIS'MAS.
THAT' RIGHT
CHRISTMAS EVE ISN'T OVER YET
Don't complain too much. There are lots of people who are lonely tonight.
Remember you're lucky to have someone who loves you.
HE'S RIGHT

Welcome home
I'm home, Achi
MEOW
CLICK
Don't make
face
SIGH...
Is it too late to go back?
SIGH...
SIGH

蜂須賀 保
TAMOTSU HACHISUKA

[illegible]
m high
m weight 48 kg
a fire emblem [illegible] be
like his attitude [illegible] he has a [illegible]
[illegible] mem[illegible] [illegible] armor [illegible] cms
[illegible] [illegible] ion Water
[illegible] [illegible] tea cigarette wine

[illegible]
about we
s up
where we
left
night
[illegible]
today?

Sorry,
didn't
get you a
present.

YOSHI

CHAPTER 4 ♡ END

ON THE ROOF AT SUNSET

THAT DAY

小山田 宇宙

SORA OYAMADA

16 years old. Sophomore in high school
Height: 154 cm Weight: 43 kg.
Aries. Blood Type O / Believes Tamotsu is the only one for him. Quiet in front of Tamotsu (to be liked better), but is very active and straightforward in general.
Family members: Ordinary parents and an older sister who is in a ladies' gang.
Treasure: School uniform given to him by Tamotsu.

I FELL IN LOVE
FOR THE FIRST TIME.
SWITCH?!

Don't talk like that
He wouldn't want that stuff anyway. I can buy things there if I need to.
I don't understand why you have to move out
You can go to school from home
IGNORE
I'm worried about you. How come you don't need to pay rent? You have it too easy.
He'll have to take care of you, too.
YES. I'M STARTING COLLEGE THIS SPRING
No point telling him what to do. He'll do it his own way.

You're the one moving in. Why can't you take things that are more useful
VOOSH
Have you got everything?
CHIRP
If you need some help I can come with you.
You might need to introduce yourself to the neighbors.
Don't
I mean he's not just a friend, he's more like a mentor
It's fine

IT'S TRUE I WANTED TO BE TALLER.
BUT
THIS IS TOO MUCH.
CHAK
IF THERE'S A PROBLEM
IT'S JUST ONE THING
SLUMP
HE SAID IT AGAIN.
AND IT'S NOT JUST ANY COLLEGE.
THIS IS THE COLLEGE HE GOES TO.
Even though it's a liberal arts school
See you later
THUNK
THAT IS.
I'M STILL GETTING TALLER

"Do you wanna move in?"
"When do you start college?"
It was his suggestion.
I really should pay some rent.
I feel bad about it.
sniff
What time do you think it is?
Sorry I woke up early.
OK
Why don't you clean up the place, eh?
He's been in a bad mood lately.
TAMOTSU... WHO NOW LOOKS UP AT ME...

When you finish you always make the same sounds
Ahh
Uhh
I am not...
SINCE THE FIRST TIME
Huff
That's mean
YAWN
..EVERYTHING'S COMPLETELY.
Well, time to get up
HIS WAY
Shit! I forgot about the entrance ceremony

And it isn't really free
Silly. I told you not to worry about it. Besides my dad owns the place
Uhh...!
LAZ ALWAYS

Nice to meet you, Ms. Megumi Ahara.
...you and Tamotsu are from the same high school?
Sora!
What are you so nervous about?
What?
No, I'm not into sports.
Gay Club

Megumi, I thought that was a freshman last
You can call me Megumi.
Lucky, I can take it with you now ♡
Oops.
FWOP
Can I reach?
Hahaha おは おはは
Hehe
That's right. Your high school was a boys' school.
CHUCKLE
Would you like me to show you around?
May I sit here?

パンチラ
PANTIES!
WHOA!
GLANCE
ちら
Eh?
THONK
Ouch!
HUFF
HUFF
Are you all right?
I can get it for you.
Oops
PLOP
Seems like you guys were really close
Yeah

thought I left it around here
IN A WHILE TIME WE SPOKE
THAT DA
GUESS I LEFT MY NOTES IN THERE
IN THE LIGHT OF SUNSET
HER HAIR SHONE GOLDEN
LIKE SILK BLOWN BY THE WIND

The coolest!
He was cool.
Well
What was Tamotsu like in high school?
He was like an idol for the freshmen and juniors.
And yet.. he was still so popular I mean some guys secretly kept photos of him
No one would try talking to him though...
THAT DAY, WE HAD CLASS ON THE SCHOOL ROOFTOP.
Sorry! I left my notes for Earth Science class on the roof
What?! You have to go back?
You don't have to wait for me
You moron
I mean..
He was also my secret idol.
SIGH

?
Your handwriting sucks.
CRACK
Hey
Is that true that Saturn can float in water?
Wouldn't that be amazing?
My heart
Completely.
Stopped

What the hell do you want?
I thought my heart would stop
Whoa!
Sora Oyama
Well...
Oh, this?
Yes!
That's my notebook
?
Panic
Panic

he answered all me funny when I told her we share an apartment
what?
PHUNK
We saw you carry his picture around.
Do you wanna fall again. like this ash?

What's that
Did you follow him here?
WOMP
I mean your major is the same as his.
BLUSH

SK
He has too much free
Say, Sora?
THUMP
Tamo
OUCH!
NNGH!
THUD
You always tease me like that
HE HE HE
おほほっ
Hey, Tamotsu!
Stop it!
Gimme a break!
If I go all out, I can take you.

I can help you
What do you mean
I don't mind being your first girl
?!
What is it?

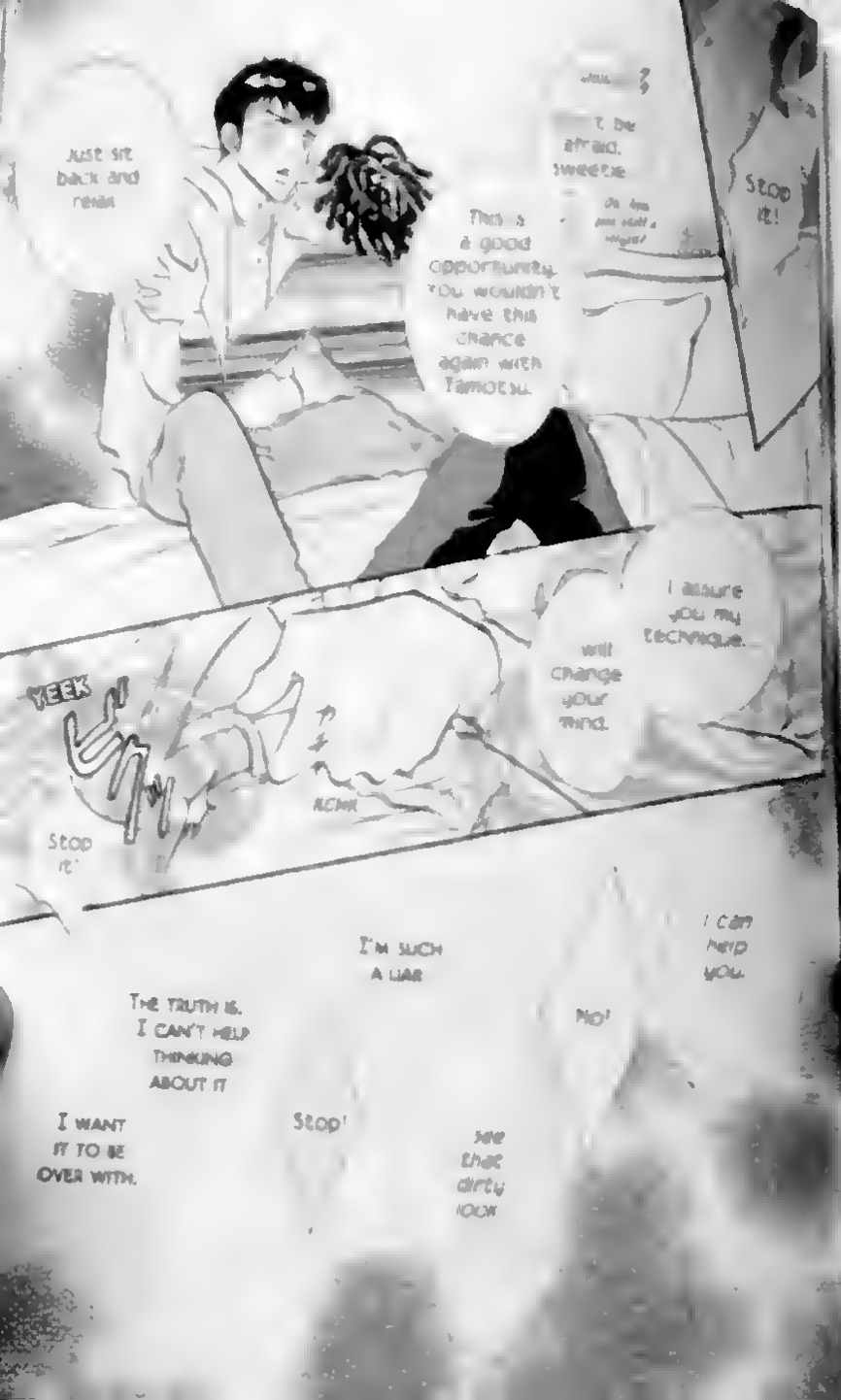
You're a virgin aren't you?
Wha?!
No offense I just thought, since you're from a boys school.
mean
you know
I admired someone too.
I went to a girls school and I know some girls admired upperclassmen.
But after awhile you realize you have to stop.

AND MAKE FUN OF ME?
WILL HE GET MAD?
WILL HE LAUGH?
OR CRY?
WILL HE BE IN A BAD MOOD?
I see that dirty look.
WILL HE BREAK UP WITH ME?
JOLT
...I SHOULD LOSE?
...I can help you.
There's no way I can ask him that.
BLACK
You're staring at me
a flight or something
No, nothing.
Did Megumi say something?
What?
FIXY
!?
FISH
How did you know?
HOW
You just had a class with her right
If I'm HONEST...

120
PFF
DIRTY LOOK EH?
SLAM
I'm a man, too.
KISS
Oh, you're home
WHAT?!

Tamotsu?
SIGH
ALL BECAUSE OF WHAT MEGUMI SAID.
Oh, he's taking a shower
SSSHHH
Hey
I'm home

STARE
GAACK
Who are you to Tamotsu?!
Oh! Oh! I'm his cousin.
You didn't answer my question.
WHAT THE HELL?!
SMOOCH
Oh, baby!
Tamotsu, I love you
I wanted you so bad.
I thought I was gonna die.
STUN


Just sit back and relax
This is a good opportunity. You wouldn't have this chance again with Tamotsu.
Stop it!
I assure you my technique will change your mind.
WEEK
Stop it!
I'M SUCH A LIAR
I can help you.
THE TRUTH IS, I CAN'T HELP THINKING ABOUT IT
No!
I WANT IT TO BE OVER WITH.
Stop!
See that dirty look

Well, to be exact, I'm also his sex buddy.
I KIND OF KNEW SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
Oh, no. That upset you?
CALM DOWN.
Well, I don't care who it is. You interested in my ass by any chance? I can't wait anymore
You won't regret it!
You're not pretending to be ignorant.

TSK
?!
TUG
Stop!!
EVEN IF IT'S NOT WITH TAMOTSU..?
BA-TUNK
What the hell's going on here?!

Made you feel pretty good, huh?
because Masayuki made a pass at you?
Actually, it's a good chance for you. You could learn a lot
don't mind.
See, you do feel good about it.
You're in the same position as me
don't care about her!
Or have you two already done that?
VOOSH
If you wanna say something just say it!
No.
You won't be sorry, even if I tell you.
What?
What's that now?
Why're you trying to fight with me?
You never apologize anyway.

Are you telling me to go play so that you can play, too?
I didn't know
had no idea you were such a loser!
Don't forget who you're talking to.
But, this might be some good news for you.
I asked her to sleep with you.
?!
I asked her to make you a man.
AAHHHH!
Why
How could you do that?!
You're horrible

UHN!
Why not you
Why don't you make me a man...?
Why don't you show some responsibility?
But not with a finger
I wanna do this.
That's enough, Sora.
I get it

?!
Are you disappointed?
HUFF
Sora...
If you do, I'll kill you...
THOK
WSSH

I noticed something seemed wrong with him since I started talking to you
Is it my fault?
He never cared what I did before
What do you mean
See like him, too.
?!
I thought I could take you away from him
But I can't help wanting him
I know he's not interested in girls.

Are you all right?
Must've been a night-mare
WASN'T IT ALL A DREAM?
You were shouting in your sleep.
I know you aren't interested in me
I WISH
May I ask why you came here?
You and Tamotsu are having problems.
My guess is that.
I get it. Then just do it.

He just testing you."
You fool.
Silly, prideful Tamotsu
You can be so.
"I was told not to touch you.
Even though he's the one who introduced us.
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHAT WAS HE THINKING?
No
But he said
I asked her to sleep with you
Do you know what that means?

I LOVE YOU SO MUCH.
I'M NOT GONNA HOLD BACK ANYMORE
Childish
I'M NOT CONFUSED ANYMORE
HE'S NOT JUST MY IDOL.

Sorry, I couldn't stop
?!
So... I'm your first man and woman, eh?
Actually, that's not a bad thing.
Hey. Tamotsu!
SINCE THEN.
Tamotsu... I'm...!

HE SAYS HE WAS DRUNK THAT NIGHT
AND THAT'S ALL RIGHT WITH ME.
What!
...OUR RELATIONSHIP
HASN'T CHANGED.
BECAUSE...
HE LOOKS AT ME MORE AFFECTIONATELY NOW.
Wait for me!
SWITCH?! ♡ END

Tough Guys Need Love, Too

This tale of tough love revolves around the passionate and bittersweet romances between the tough guys Yoshino, Sachi, Tamotsu and Sora. Three years ago, after realizing he had feelings for, not his lover Keiko but her little brother Sachi, Yoshino escaped the city without ever revealing his attraction. When he once again returns, will his love for Sachi remain unrequited or will he finally gather the courage to confess his long concealed desires? As Yoshino and Sachi struggle with their feelings for each other, Tamotsu, Sachi's childhood friend, continues to struggle with his own unrequited love. However, with the appearance of a younger classmate, Sora, he may finally be able to experience the happiness of mutual love.

Love hurts so good!

Tough Love Baby is the hot and steamy early work by famed Yaoi author Shiuko Kano (creator of *Affair*, *Yakuza In Love* and *Kiss All The Boys*).

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